



WHAT'S WRONG WITH DUKE?

SPORTS



PICTURES FROM THIS YEAR'S DOUGHNUT RUN

NEWSOBSERVER.COM

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

NEWS UPDATES AT WWW.NEWSOBSERVER.COM • FINAL EDITION, 75 CENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

©2012 THE NEWS AND OBSERVER PUBLISHING COMPANY • RALEIGH, N.C.

MORE NEWS

UPDATES ALL DAY AT NEWSOBSERVER.COM



Clint Eastwood

CLINT'S SUPER BOWL AD STIRS CONFLICT

Clint Eastwood speaks up for Chrysler during a Super Bowl commercial Sunday night and raises a bit of a ruckus. **4B**

CITY MAY RESHAPE SAFETY CENTER

Raleigh leaders are considering a plan to split the proposed project into phases and place some emergency services outside downtown. **1B**

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER GLITCH

Parents of 1,191 Wake County students will have to reselect middle schools because of a computer problem. **1B**

MEDICAL SCREENING GETS 2ND LOOK

Doctors are urged to think twice about which routine tests to use amid debate over costs and benefits to patients. **1D**

U.S. CLOSES EMBASSY IN SYRIA

Amid new charges of repression by the Syrian government, the U.S. withdraws personnel as violent uprising escalates. **3A**

STATES CLOSE IN ON FORECLOSURE DEAL

New York and California are nearing agreement to join a settlement that would reduce loans on 1 million households. **6A**

WEATHER

Today: Sunny skies. High 58; low 36.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. High 58; low 34. **8B**

INDEX

Business4-5B Editorials8A
Classified6-7D Films, Puzzles .3D
Comics4-5D Life, Etc.1D
Deaths6-7B TV2A



AB ● ● ●

Timeline focus of new trial



Jason Young listens as his attorney, Mike Klinkosum, makes opening remarks Monday. Young is accused of murdering his wife, Michelle Young, in November 2006. His first trial last June ended with a deadlocked jury.

PHOTOS BY SHAWN ROCCO - srocco@newsobserver.com

Jason Young faces jury for second time

By ANNE BLYTHE
ablythe@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH — Jason Young waited 1,693 days to provide an account of his whereabouts in the hours before and after his pregnant wife was found bludgeoned to death.

Assistant District Attorney Becky Holt stressed that number in her opening statement Monday, the first day of testimony in the retrial of Young.

Why, Holt asked, would a man whose wife had been bludgeoned, receiving at least 30 blows, not consult law enforcement officers once about the progress of their investigation?

Why, Holt asked, would he not sit for a deposition in a custody battle over his toddler daughter and then cede the parenting of his only child to his in-laws?

Why, Holt further posed, would a man who claimed to have stepped out-



M. Young



Meredith Fisher, sister of Michelle Young, tears up in court Monday as she describes her sister's relationship with Jason Young.

side a Virginia hotel to smoke a cigar shortly before midnight, propping open doors so he wouldn't have to use his keycard, not offer such an account to law enforcement officers shortly af-

SEE **YOUNG**, PAGE 6A

FROM THE COURTROOM

Retrial: See more photos from Jason Young's trial at newsobserver.com/localpics and get updates from the trial all day at newsobserver.com/news.

U.S. takes aim at Iran

White House tightens economic sanctions; latest action could choke off oil trade.

By JACKIE CALMES AND RICK GLADSTONE
New York Times

WASHINGTON — The White House moved to tighten sanctions against Iran on Monday because of the country's suspect nuclear program, freezing all property of the Central Bank of Iran, other Iranian financial institutions and the Iranian government in the United States.

The new restrictions also raised new warnings to financial institutions in other nations that they could face big penalties in the United States if they do business with Iran's central bank.

The actions were announced in an executive order signed by President Barack Obama that started the enforcement process for a tough measure he signed into law at the end of 2011.

If fully carried out, that measure could isolate Iran's central bank and effectively choke off the sale of Iranian oil by blocking any means of payment. Most of the revenue for oil sales by Iran, one of the world's biggest oil exporters, is processed by its central bank.

Obama's actions came against the backdrop of rising

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE 6A

Hard sell for school board

By T. KEUNG HUI AND THOMAS GOLDSMITH
khui@newsobserver.com
tgoldsmith@newsobserver.com

Wake County taxpayers have been paying more than \$20,000 a month to maintain three vacant Raleigh office buildings that school officials have had limited success in trying to sell.

Today, the school board will be asked to vote on the sale of one of those buildings near Raleigh's Five Points area. But the offering price is half the property's assessed value and 25 percent less than what the school system hoped to get.

But in a stagnant real estate market, the question facing school system leaders is whether they can afford to be choosy by holding on to buildings, including the former headquarters building on Wake Forest Road, that are depreciating in value each day.



The Wake County Public School System building on Wake Forest Road is depreciating in value every day.

JOHN ROTTET - jrottet@newsobserver.com

MORE ABOUT SALE

To lease or not? How the decision was made. **> 7A**

"In a perfect world, the other properties would have sold quickly," said school board chairman Kevin Hill. "I'm con-

cerned inasmuch as it's costing Wake County and the taxpayers additional funds."

The sale of the three buildings was approved by the school board, county com-

SEE **SCHOOLS**, PAGE 7A

Election officials urge fund release

By JOHN FRANK
jfrank@newsobserver.com

A bipartisan group of North Carolina election officials is urging Republican lawmakers to unfreeze \$4 million in federal money that they say is necessary to accommodate a large voter turnout and ensure the integrity of the 2012 ballot.

The Help America Voter Act money typically covers the cost of voting machine maintenance, poll worker training and early voting sites. But to get the money, the state must allocate an additional \$664,000 to the State Board of Elections to meet federal guidelines — a move that Republican lawmakers seem reluctant to do.

The election funding showdown comes at a time when North Carolina prepares for the national political spotlight

as host of the Democratic National Convention and expects to play a key role in the selection of the next president as a swing state.

Democracy North Carolina, a liberal-leaning election advocacy group, issued a memorandum that puts a potential stalemate in stark terms: "North Carolina could become the next Florida."

The group's executive director, Bob Hall, believes the frozen money fits a pattern that suggests Republican legislative leaders want to suppress voter turnout to hurt Democrats' chances in November. "It looks too much like part of a game plan to make voting more difficult," said Hall, referring to other GOP-backed legislation to require voter

SEE **ELECTION**, PAGE 6A

TODAY'S DEAL

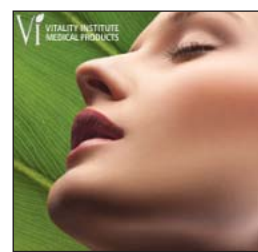


\$20
for 3 hour acrylic painting class. Value \$40.
Artful Endeavors
200 Sawmill Rd., Ste. 201
Raleigh, NC 27615

SIDE DEALS



\$39
for heart-shaped jewelry Value \$89.
Vianna Jewelers
Conveniently located at The Factory in Wake Forest



\$175
for ViPeel plus an express facial. Value \$375.
The Spa @ Pravana Tan and Wellness
946 Gateway Commons Circle
Wake Forest, NC 27587

at triangle.dealsaver.com

*This is not a coupon, must purchase deal online at triangle.dealsaver.com.

dealsaver

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEWS & OBSERVER

